

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is allowable over the cited references.

The non-final Office Action dated December 22, 2004, indicated that claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Barch *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,574,853).

Applicant notes that the original application did not include a claim 7. Thus, the pending claims are claims 1-6 and 8-25. As no claim 7 ever existed, claim 7 cannot be canceled or withdrawn. Thus, Applicant submits that the above listing of claims is complete as it includes all of the claims (1-6 and 8-25).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Section 102(b) rejection because the Office Action fails to present a reference that corresponds to the claimed invention. The Office Action does not provide citations to any of the alleged teachings relied upon in the rejection and does not provide any correlation of the alleged teachings in the '853 reference to the claimed invention. Moreover, the Office Action fails to provide rationale of how the relied-upon '853 teachings are believed to teach or suggest any of the claimed limitations.

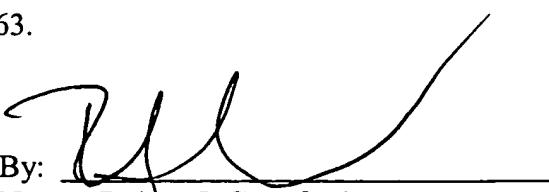
Further, a review of the '853 reference indicates that the '853 reference fails to teach the claimed invention. For example, the '853 reference does not contain any mention of a netlist, scan flops, sorting simulated scan flops, identifying labels for the simulated scan flops, or graphically displaying the simulated scan flops, as set forth in the independent claims, not to mention the subject matter of the dependent claims (which appear to have been overlooked). Without a presentation of correspondence between each of the claimed limitations and the cited reference, the Section 102(b) rejection is improper and cannot be maintained. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that the rejection has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, Mr. Peter Zawilska, of Philips Corporation at (408) 474-9063.

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